

Message Text

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15/50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 NIC-01 EB-07

AID-05 SSO-00 /093 W

----- 059762

R 240941Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7548

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1034

NOFORN

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ADD NOFORN CAPTION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, VN, JA, CH

SUBJECT: DRV-JAPAN RELATIONS AND HANOI'S RELATIONS

REF: A. TOKYO 165546 (AND PREVIOUS)

B. VIENTIANE 0378

C. HONG KONG 811

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SUMMARY: GOJ TALKS WITH HANOI RESUMED LATE IN DECEMBER AND

APPEAR TO BE APPROACHING SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. LACKADAISICAL POSE BY JAPANESE TOWARD QUESTION OF OPENING EMBASSY IN HANOI SEEMS TO HAVE GAINED THEM LEVERAGE IN THESE LONG NEGOTIATIONS. FONOFF BELIEVES HANOI HAS ALSO BEEN SPURRED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH TOKYO BECAUSE OF DETERIORATING RELATIONS WITH PRC. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF FIRST SE ASIA DIV DIRECTOR HANABUSA INFORMED US THAT INFORMAL TALKS WITH HANOI REP IN VIENTIANE RESUMED IN LATE DECEMBER. HE EXPECTS NEGOTIATIONS MAY BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED SOON. AS VIENTIANE POINTED OUT (REF. B), HANABUSA SAID DRV SEEMS TO HAVE "SWALLOWED" JAPAN'S FIRM POSITION OF NON-RECOGNITION OF PRG AND TO BE WILLING TO ACCEPT INITIAL FIVE BILLION YEN GRANT ASSISTANCE AND NEGOTIATE REMAINDER SUBSEQUENTLY. TALKS NOW FOCUSSING ON MODALITIES OF ASSISTANCE, WITH HANOI PUSHING FOR AID WITHOUT STRINGS ATTACHED. HANABUSA EMPHASIZED THAT HANOI SEEMED SHOCKED THAT JAPAN SHOWED NO HASTE TO SET UP EMBASSY IN HANOI. THUS, HANOI HAS LOST ONLY REAL LEVERAGE IT THOUGHT DRV RETAINED. HANABUSA EXPECTS HANOI PLANS TO OPEN EMBASSY IN TOKYO WHEN NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED --PROBABLY TWO OR THREE MEN IN AN APARTMENT. FONOFF HAS LEARNED THAT HANOI HAS ALREADY BEGUN SELECTING THE STAFF, INCLUDING A JAPANESE SPEAKING INTERPRETER. NORTH VIETNAMESE WILL BE FURTHER SURPRISED, SAID HANABUSA, WHEN GOJ REFUSES TO ALLOW THEM TO OPEN EMBASSY IN TOKYO UNTIL ADEQUATE QUARTERS ARE SUPPLIED FOR GOJ EMBASSY IN HANOI.

2. HANABUSA BELIEVES HANOI IS NOW MORE INTERESTED IN POLITICAL VALUE OF RELATIONS WITH JAPAN THAN IN GRANT ASSISTANCE. RECENT JAPANESE VISITORS TO HANOI NOTED SIZEABLE NUMBER OF SHIPS WAITING TO BE OFF-LOADED. WAREHOUSES ALSO APPEARED FILLED IN PORT AREA AND DRV MAY BE ABSORBING AS MUCH ASSISTANCE AND TRADE AS ITS CAPABILITIES PERMIT.

3. THROUGH RELATIONS WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING JAPAN, HANOI MAY HOPE TO STRENGTHEN ITS INTERNATIONAL POSITION TO COUNTER DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS WITH PRC. HANABUSA
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MENTIONED SEVERAL SIGNS OF WORSENING RELATIONS: (A) FOLLOWING PARACELS INCIDENT, NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN ON TONKIN GULF OIL PROSPECTING WERE ABRUPTLY BROKEN OFF. JAPANESE ASSUMED THAT INCIDENT JEOPARDIZED PRC-DRV AGREEMENT DEMARCATING TERRITORIAL WATERS BETWEEN TWO. (B) AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF RECENTLY VISITED PRC-DRV BORDER AREA AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH LARGE CONCENTRATION OF VIETNAMESE TROOPS PATROLLING BORDER.

(C) GOJ IS AWARE OF REPORTS OF VERBAL ATTACKS BY NORTH VIETNAMESE AGAINST PRC FOR FAILURE TO ADEQUATELY SUPPORT DRV. FINALLY, HANABUSA REFERRED TO RECENT FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS BY DRV FONMIN NGUYEN DUY TRINH WITH CONCILIATORY REFERENCES TO US. HANABUSA CONTENDED, AS HE HAS IN PAST, THAT HANOI GENUINELY WANTS US ASSISTANCE FOR RECONSTRUCTION. WHEN EMBOFF REFERRED TO SEEMING CONTRADICTION IN HANOI'S ACTIONS IN SVN AND HANABUSA'S ASSESSMENT, HE CLAIMED THAT IT HAS TAKEN TWO YEARS TO PROVE TO HANOI THAT SVN WOULD NOT FALL LIKE RIPE PLUM WHEN US WITHDREW. THIS HAS NOW BEEN PROVEN AND DESPITE RECENT ATTACKS TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON SVN AND THIEU, HANOI REALIZES THAT RESOLUTION OF SVN PROBLEM AND DRV'S RECONSTRUCTION REQUIRE ASSISTANCE OF US.

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT HANOI REGARDS AMOUNT OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS OF RELATIVE UNIMPORTANCE AND HANABUSA IS INCONSISTENT IN SAYING THAT DRV CANNOT ABSORB JAPAN'S AID BUT WANTS US ASSISTANCE. NEVERTHELESS, IN ADDITION TO FUNDS, DRV WOULD PROFIT FROM EMBASSIES IN HANOI AND TOKYO, BOTH DIPLOMATICALLY, AND IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO POLITICAL CONTACTS TO FURTHER ITS AIMS IN SVN. DESPITE AWARENESS OF DRV'S WEAPONS SUPPLY TO SVN AND MILITARY ACTIVITY THERE, MANY JAPANESE, LIKE HANABUSA, CLING TO BELIEF THAT HANOI HOPES TO FREE ITSELF FROM THE ECONOMIC BURDEN OF SUPPORTING THE VIET CONG IN SVN TO CONCENTRATE ON RECONSTRUCTING NVN. TO FACILITATE THIS EFFORT, JAPANESE BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT WILLING TO PROVIDE FUNDS AS A LURE TO HANOI.

5. COMMENTS ON DETERIORATION OF PRC-DRV RELATIONS ADDS TO EVIDENCE THAT PARACELS ATTACK BY PRC SHOOK HANOI AS WELL AS SAIGON AND THAT RELATIONS
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ARE INDEED ON DOWN-SWING.
HODGSON

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NNN

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